

## SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, APRIL 20, 2026

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, April 20, 2026, in person at the Spring Lake IS/MS Media Center. Jennifer Nicles called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Kelly VanderHoek, Curt Theune, Christopher (Chris) Beck, Paul Aldridge and Courtney Holmes. Absent: Dustin Brown

- The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Adam Reed, High School AP Environmental Science teacher, introduced a group of High School students from his class who presented on a project they have been working on: How to improve Spring Lake Schools' campuses to amend water quality. Matt May with the Grand Valley Metro Council was also present and provided that he has worked closely with Mr. Reed and the students on this project. Below is a summary of what the students presented:

- Threats they discovered to our local watershed (Grand River & Spring Lake)
- Definition of what a watershed is and the biggest impacts on watersheds in Spring Lake: nutrient pollution, sediment pollution and destruction of riparian buffers
- Identified direct pollutants to our watershed and provided solution on how to improve the watershed
- Detailed what they discovered during a field trip by collecting and analyzing data from Norris Creek in Sullivan Township and Little Rio Grande in Muskegon County
- Solution proposed includes:
  - Planting native species at the Middle School to decrease runoff into the Grand River
  - Planting a native flower bed and flower field at the High School
  - Scheduling school collaboration clean up days
- Provided the anticipated additional benefits from the solution such as sharing their impact, wellness in nature and hands-on impact

The students answered questions from the Board about costs, funding, timeline for the planting and maintenance of the plantings. Mr. Furton advised that he would like to get more information about the project and advised he would schedule a time to visit with the group of student and Mr. Reed.

#### CTE OFFERINGS AT SLHS

Ben Arme, HS Principal, and Kelli Heavilin, HS Business Teacher, presented information on the new Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings at the High School. Below is a summary of what was presented:

- These new offerings align with the district's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan under Focus Area 1, Curriculum

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- Courses offered under this program align education with real-world career skills, build college and career readiness, strengthen local industry connections, provide pathways in high-demand fields and support student engagement and leadership through BPA
- Finance/Accounting Courses offered for 3 trimesters
- Industry certifications and assessment are or will be available
- Postsecondary credit at MCC is approved for the 2026-27 school year for Foundations of Accounting
- Marketing I, II and Entrepreneurship will be offered for 3 trimesters in the 2026-27 school year
- Industry certifications will be available
- Postsecondary credit at MCC is approved for the 2026-27 school year for Intro to Entrepreneurship
- Work-based learning experiences added with guest speakers, job shadows, and business tours
- Growth goals provided for expanding community placements, strengthening employer relationships and aligning work-based learning with CTE standards and competencies
- Student leadership development through Business Professional of America (BPA) shared
- Career readiness and senior service hours expanded with other opportunities for gaining the required 18 service hours
- Students are graduating with college credits, industry certifications and real-world experience

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the Minutes of the Work Session of March 13, 2026 and Regular Meeting of March 16, 2026 as presented.

Vote: Yes–Unanimous

### **ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR AGENDA**

None

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Garth Trask, 14808 Herring Drive, SL – expressed deep gratitude to the Board and SLPS leadership on the opening of the Laker Athletic Center and the designated space for SL Wrestling and Competitive Cheer athletes. He indicated that the space has been a timesaver for athletes by not having to move mats each day which allowed them more time to connect before and after practice. He noted wrestling had record-breaking participation, great success over the season and that the youth program continues to build with over 80 athletes.

Nancy Ireland, 1830 Pine Ct, GH – provided the Board with the elementary Music contact times for each building for the 25-26 school year and recommended a change to switching between Spanish and Music specials to twice per year. She urged the Board to consider reinstating elementary Music to fulltime when possible.

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Crystal Feasby, 15277 N. Scenic, SL – provided her support for the tennis community and keeping the tennis court at the Middle School complex. She asked the Board to consider honoring what the original bond campaign marketed by adding capacity not trading away existing courts for new courts.

Erin Sprite, 1145 Ireland Ave, Muskegon – provided she is a former student and summer rec tennis instructor and MS co-ed tennis coach. She asked the Board to consider keeping Charlie Bassett’s legacy alive and the tennis programs strong by keeping the existing Middle School tennis courts intact.

Elizabeth Priddy, -15997 Vinecrest Ave., SL – stated she was speaking on behalf of her husband and read a prepared statement that included what the bond campaign stated regarding investing in athletic facilities and what the voters have approved versus how the funds are now being used. She stated that bond funds being spent should align with the voter intent to enhance and invest in athletic facilities.

Jamie May, 216 Prospect St., SL – expressed her appreciation for the commitment the Board has to the school district and encouraged the Board to find a compromise for keeping the MS baseball field as she would love to see it stay in the community and believes there is a real need for it.

Taylor Holmes, 15375 Oak Point Dr., SL – provided that she is a part of the Lakeshore Little League program and has seen rapid growth in the league, almost doubling in 2 years. She provided they are struggling to find space to practice and play games. She stated that the Lakeshore Little League may be willing to partner with the district to help with maintaining the existing Hickman field and asked the Board to respectfully reconsider how to best utilize the current field and keep it useable for baseball.

Abbey Postalwait, 733 Summer St., SL – provided her support for keeping and improving the existing MS tennis courts as there are so few opportunities for kids to be involved in tennis in this area.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the consent agenda for check listings as presented:

- Accounts Payable – Food Service, SLCFAC, General Fund, Student Activity, etc. totaling \$1,135,257.
- Payroll – totaling \$3,168,691.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **RESIGNATIONS**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve, with regrets, the resignations of Nick Feekings, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher at Jeffers, and Nancy Ireland, elementary Music teacher, as presented.

Mr. Furton provided the specifics behind the resignations and that he is sad to see them both go.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, APRIL 20, 2026 (Cont.)

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL APPROVAL FOR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the out-of-state travel for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington, D.C. scheduled for July 31, 2026 through August 4, 2026 as presented.

Questions from the Board were answered by Kelli Adrian, MS teacher.

Vote: Yes – Jennifer Nicles, Kelly VanderHoek, Curt Theune, Paul Aldridge and Courtney Holmes  
Abstained – Christopher Beck

FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT RENEWAL APPROVAL

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the renewal of the Food Service Management Contract with Chartwells for the 2026-27 school year and to authorize the Superintendent to sign the contract renewal, as presented.

Liz Boeve, Director of Operations, provided that the district is in year four of five of the FSMC with Chartwells and that this renewal approval is a requirement with the State of Michigan to make the Board aware of costs and approve those costs as part of the five-year contract.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

SL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL FURNISHINGS RECOMMENDATION APPROVAL

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the bid awards for MS and HS furnishing packages to Great Lakes Furniture Supply, Interphase Interiors, Custer and Wenger for a total cost not to exceed \$170,978.72 as presented.

Ms. Boeve provided that this approval is an extension of the bond bid packs 4 and 5 and that pricing was obtained through governmental buying agencies. She stated that a number of the projects will be happening this summer and into next year. She touched on what was being upgraded and the new furnishings being provided.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

MS TENNIS COURTS

Mr. Furton provided the background and history of the MS tennis courts and that he has recently received a lot of feedback from the community on keeping the courts in place. His recommendation to the Board at this time is that the district maintain those seven courts as they currently exist. He stated that district has always supported interscholastic athletics and strives to provide the greatest level of support that it possibly can. He provided the rationale behind adding the four courts to the High School through the bond process versus replacing the seven courts at the Middle School. In keeping the existing seven MS courts, this would give the district 19 available courts.

Board discussion followed and questions were answered by Mr. Furton to the extent known at this time. Mr. Furton noted that this will be an action item at the May regular Board meeting.

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### HICKMAN FIELD AT MS CAMPUS

Mr. Furton similarly recommended to the Board that the current Hickman baseball field at the MS campus be kept as a baseball field. He noted that this field is useful to the community more so than the district as it supports youth athletics and there is an interest from the community to see it maintained at some level as a baseball field. While the district cannot afford to continue to maintain it as a varsity-level field, maintaining it as a baseball field is possible and the current field can provide flexibility for other uses for youth sports/activities.

Board discussion followed and questions were answered by Mr. Furton to the extent known at this time. Mr. Furton noted that this will be an action item at the May regular Board meeting.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Furton reported on the following:

- Legislative Update – provided to the Board. Budget recommendations for School Aid from the House and Senate could be released this week.
- Personnel – The following vacancies are posted or the application deadline has just closed:
  - MS Spanish Teacher
  - HS Resource Room Teacher
  - Jeffers Resource Room Teacher
  - HS Health & PE Teacher
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, filled internally by Melisa Overway
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher - Jeffers
  - Elementary Music Teacher
- Calendar
  - Senior Awards Program: May 14, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
  - Regular Board Meeting: May 18, 6:00 p.m.
  - Graduation: May 27, 6:00 p.m.
  - District Happy Hour: May 28, 3:00-5:30 pm, Stan's
  - Last Day/Half Day: June 4

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Regular Board Meeting – May 18, 2026, 6:00 p.m., IS/MS Media Center

### CLOSED SESSION – PARAPROFESSIONAL BARGAINING AGREEMENT

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to move to closed session.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

The Board went into closed session at 7:44 p.m.

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Chris Beck, to return to open session.

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Vote: Yes – Unanimous

The Board returned to open session at 8:30 p.m.

**ACTION ITEM**

**RATIFICATION OF PARAPROFESSIONAL BARGAINING AGREEMENT**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the paraprofessional bargaining agreement as presented.

Vote: Yes – Jennifer Nicles, Kelly VanderHoek, Curt Theune, Christopher Beck and Courtney Holmes  
Abstained – Paul Aldridge

**ADJOURNMENT**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Board Secretary